

**MINUTES
JOINT CITY COUNCIL/HOA PRESIDENTS MEETING
MARCH 29, 2004**

An adjourned meeting of the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 7:12 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by MAYOR MITCHELL.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan**, Zuckerman*

City Staff Present: City Manager Douglas R. Prichard

Assistant City Manager Samuel R. Wise

Planning Director David Wahba

Community Services Director Andy Clark

Finance Director Jud Norrell

*Councilman Zuckerman arrived at 7:28 p.m.

**Councilman Zerunyan arrived at 7:50 p.m.

HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED

Mike Russo, Bridlewood HOA

Paul Coble, Cresta Palos Verdes HOA

Bob Bennett, Harbor Sight HOA

Debbi Fixen, Larga Vista HOA

Bridget Carman, Larga Vista HOA

Bob Hladek, Marloma HOA

Debby Stegura, Masongate HOA

Tim Scott, Montecillo HOA

Clark Davis, Roanwood HOA

Sean Bennett, Rolling Meadows HOA

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS

MAYOR MITCHELL welcomed the Homeowners' Association Presidents and proceeded with the introduction of the CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS and City staff. She explained that much of the feedback from this meeting will be discussed at the continued Policy Development Session meeting which is scheduled to be held on April 13, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Sean Bennett, Rolling Meadows HOA, inquired whether funds received from curbside recycling are returned to the City. Assistant City Manager Wise stated that as part of the last bid package, BFI is allowed to keep any funds received from recycling. Mr. Bennett noted that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes receives revenue from recycling and those funds are used toward HOA requests, i.e., beautifying

entryways.

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN stated that BFI has done a good job of keeping track of the City's greenwaste and recyclable percentages, and the City has always met the 50% mandate AB939. COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN added that this subject would be reviewed when the trash franchise goes out to bid.

City Manager Prichard stated it is the City's intention to go out to bid for a new trash franchise with any change in haulers in March or April 2005. Between now and then, the City will be generating a package of services for these haulers to bid on. He suggested the HOA Presidents ask the homeowners in their respective associations what type of trash service options they want, i.e., once or twice a week service; automated service; variable rates, etc.

In any event, the City will be holding public meetings in the next six months to discuss this item.

Tim Scott, Montecillo HOA, stated he personally has been very happy with BFI's services. MAYOR MITCHELL stated she has had two instances where BFI did not pick up her household waste and recycling materials.

Sean Bennett reiterated his suggestion to consider having recycling revenue paid to directly to the City to be used for City HOA entryway beautification. He also suggested that if this process was approved, the use of the funds could be publicized and therefore encouraging more residents to recycle.

Brigett Carman, Larga Vista HOA, addressed the issue of traffic related problems, especially on Palos Verdes Drive North. She noted with the proposed golf course, the proposed Church expansion, and other pending projects along PVDN/PVDE, coupled with the MTA's predicted drop of some of the bus lines on the Peninsula, that traffic would be worse. She proposed that members of the community, i.e., Traffic and Safety Committees, RPV and RHE City Council Members, members of the School Board, meet to discuss any possible mitigating measures or alternative methods to trips generated by the schools, to alleviate the traffic problems. Ms. Carman stated that perhaps revenues from grants could be used toward school buses.

MAYOR MITCHELL suggested Ms. Carman meet with the School District and PV Transit to discuss the PV bus routes. She noted that parents, particularly those who have elementary school aged children, do not want their children to be bussed to and from school. This item should be taken up by the School Board rather than by the City.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN stated in regard to Ms. Carman's suggestion that RHE cooperate with other agencies regarding this situation, it was his opinion that other cities have a completely different view of PVDN, and may attempt to reshape the character of the Drive, as they may feel RHE is "overprotective" of PVDN.

MAYOR MITCHELL stated that the COUNCIL is willing to work with any other body regarding this problem, however, she felt this should be dealt with first from a grass roots level, i.e., PTA and parents.

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN stated this subject could be agendized at a future Traffic and Safety Committee meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS stated this item could be discussed at the upcoming Policy Development Session, but that the School District cannot spend school monies on transportation fees for children.

Discussion ensued regarding financing school buses, different attendance boundaries for schools, and suggestions to have parents involved in monitoring the children getting off buses at the bus stop and school sites.

Mike Russo, Bridlewood HOA, stated he is a member of the Chandler Re-use committee. He stated that talks with Chandler regarding traffic have raised the idea of providing some kind of bus service for the proposed development. He suggested the COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION could impose such a requirement or look into a possible path from Chandler's to Dapplegray School.

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN stated that schools might be exempt from environmental review.

Clark Davis, Roanwood HOA, asked if the Water Company would be shutting down PVDN in the future. He mentioned that water was leaking around his area.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS stated that it was the City's responsibility to find the least obtrusive impact to residents of the Peninsula while allowing CalWater to repair and replace old water pipes.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN stated this subject is still in the preliminary stages. It was noted that staff was directed to look into hiring a consultant to review these concerns, and that perhaps other cities would share in the costs for this consultant since this impacts other cities.

Bob Hladek, Marloma HOA, suggested the City develop a master plan that incorporates maintenance, replacement, and repair of water pipes, as well as take into consideration traffic conditions.

Discussion then ensued regarding the possible underground utility project on PVDN. It was the consensus of the HOA Presidents that any such project must be coordinated with the CalWater project to minimize disruption of traffic on PVDN.

Bob Bennett, Harbor Sight HOA, inquired about the City's view guidelines. He stated many residents come to the City to solve problems with a neighbor's tree blocking their view instead of having a "sense of community" and trying to work together with their neighbor.

City Manager Prichard agreed with Mr. Bennett and added that it would be helpful for the HOA Presidents to encourage a dialogue of awareness with regard to private vegetation guidelines and communication between neighbors. He stated that if HOAs have newsletters, they should consider including the City's guidelines in the newsletter and encourage the residents to talk first to each other as a good first step in resolving view issues.

Community Services Director Clark briefly reviewed the guidelines and stated he would be glad to furnish a copy of these guidelines to anyone who wishes to have one.

Mike Russo described his recent experience with Vector Control and with bees in a wall on his property.

Tim Scott described the Montecillo HOA's experience with loose dogs and the reluctance of Animal Control and the Sheriff's Department to deal with the issue. City Manager Prichard stated he would talk to Animal Control and the Sheriff's Department to see how they can be more responsive to residents' requests.

Tim Scott described the Montecillo HOA's experience with peacocks. He stated that when homeowners purchased homes in the area, there were no peacocks, and he felt that homeowners are entitled to have a "peacock free" zone. This item will be discussed at the upcoming Policy Development Session.

Brigett Carman thanked City staff for their help with the entryway beautification projects. She suggested including some of the newly refurbished entryways in next year's City calendar. She asked whether the current list of HOA Presidents were listed on the website. She thanked Assistant City Manager Wise for the HOA sign on PVDE and the addition of wording on the back of signs as they enter Rolling Hills Estates.

Sean Bennett inquired how the City is handling the current budget crises. Finance Director Norrell stated the budget is presently in good shape, and the question is how the State will affect the City's budget.

City Manager Prichard added that the City budget contains a reserve so that the City may draw upon those funds to replace revenues the State might take away, i.e., VLF, ERAF, sales tax. He explained that using these reserves would be necessary this year. The question was raised whether the City should cut services and not touch the reserve fund or draw on the reserves and keep the levels of service high.

City Manager Prichard mentioned that the City is hoping for development fees from the commercial

developments. He stated the renovation of The Avenues and the Vantage Pointe development brought in developer fees which were put in reserve in the past. An increase in property tax and sales tax all are long-term results that follow from those developments. The City will be hiring an auditor to look at the City's revenue stream in order to look at alternative revenue sources.

COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN stated that no matter what the City does, there is a need to be cautious and this was not a time to be extravagant.

Tim Scott recommended the COUNCIL cut costs now.

City Manager Prichard stated there is an initiative sponsored by the League of California Cities to stop the State from taking local funds which may qualify for the November ballot. He asked those present who wanted to know more about this initiative to talk to COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS or MAYOR MITCHELL outside Council Chambers after the meeting.

City Manager Prichard also informed those present about the one-half cent sales tax initiative which may qualify for the County ballot in November, that could pay for additional public safety. This sales tax initiative would generate new revenue and may be used to replace current revenue if the State takes away additional local revenue.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:01 p.m., MAYOR MITCHELL formally adjourned the City Council meeting to Tuesday, April 13, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by, Approved by,

Ellen Shinkai Douglas R. Prichard

Human Resources Analyst City Clerk